



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
370 L'Enfant Promenade, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20447

October 7, 2005

Dear Tribal Leaders and Tribal Organization Representatives:

On behalf of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (DHHS) Administration for Children and Families (ACF) I would like to invite you to a formal Tribal Consultation Session on ACF Programs. ACF is sponsoring a National Native American Affairs Conference on December 7-9, 2005 at the Convention Center in Palm Springs, California. This will be a real hands-on conference. The goal of this gathering is to assist tribes and tribal organizations in the administration of ACF social and economic development programs and how to maximize ACF funding streams to complement other on-going programs. (See www.namsinc.org/acfconference for information about the ACF conference.)

ACF would like to take this opportunity to invite Tribal Leaders to participate in a formal Consultation session with top ACF senior officials and program directors. The Consultation session will take place immediately before the conference, on Tuesday, December 6, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. ACF senior leadership will be present from the following programs: Administration for Native Americans, Child Care Bureau, Children's Bureau, Family and Youth Services Bureau, Office of Child Support Enforcement, Office of Community Services and Office of Family Assistance.

The intent of the Consultation Session is for ACF officials to hear first hand from tribal leaders as well as representatives from tribal organizations and community-based non-profits about the implementation of ACF programs in tribal communities. Of particular interest is, the challenges that tribes and tribal organizations face in accessing ACF program funding and using programmatic funding to support social and economic development activities in Native American communities.

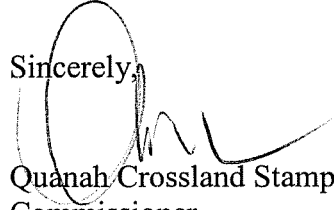
This Consultation Session is very deliberately scheduled to precede the ACF conference. It is ACF's intention to carefully listen to the barriers outlined by tribal representatives and, to the greatest extent possible, to spend the subsequent three days of the conference addressing the issues that are raised. Please plan to join us for this Consultation Session and to assist ACF in understanding the challenges faced by your Tribes, organizations, and communities in implementing ACF programs. ACF looks forward to your input and assistance in this joint problem-solving effort.

If you would like to present testimony or submit issues for the consultation agenda, please call or email LeeAnna Arrowchis, Administration for Native Americans, at (887) 922-9262 or register on-line at www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ana or at

www.masterkeyconsulting.com/ACFTribalconsultation. If you are proposing an issue to be addressed in the Consultation Session, please be sure to include a brief description of the issue and the name and contact information of a suggested presenter

ACF would like your assistance and support to ensure that this is a meaningful gathering. It is only by working together, through effective partnerships between the federal government, tribal governments, and community-based organizations, that ACF funding can be maximized to improve social and economic development opportunities, and ultimately, the quality of life for Native children and families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Quanah Crossland Stamps', written over the printed name.

Quanah Crossland Stamps
Commissioner
Administration for Native Americans